

(b) if so, whether Government are planning to rationalize subsidy pattern under Macro-Management-work plan to the extent of fifty per cent; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Differential in grants/subsidy is largely on account of the fact that Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been started at different periods of time, for fulfilling specific objectives under crop and area specific programmes. The pattern of subsidy as applicable since inception of Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme has been 25%. There is no proposal at present under consideration of the Government for modifying the subsidy structure under the said scheme.

Estimates of Kharif output

1040. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released the first advance estimates of Kharif foodgrains output for 2006-07, which has been pegged at 105.22 million tonnes against the target of 115.25 million tonnes;

(b) if so, whether this shortage is likely to be caused by the lower acreage of coarse cereals and oilseeds;

(c) if so, whether this shortage has created rise in the prices of coarse cereals and oilseeds; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA) (a) Yes, Sir. The 1st advance estimates of Kharif foodgrains for 2006-07 is 105.22 million tonnes against the target of 115.25 million tonnes.

(b) While the area coverage under Kharif coarse cereals in 2006-07. (1st advance estimates) is estimated at about 21.75 million hectares compared to 23.01 million hectares in 2005-06 (4th advance estimates), it was 15.74 million hectares under Kharif oilseeds in 2006-07 compared to 17.53 million hectares in 2005-06.

(c) The table below gives the monthly average wholesale price indices of jowar, bajra, maize, barley, ragi and oilseeds for the months of June 2006 to October 2006:

Commodity	Monthly Average Wholesale Price Index in 2006				
	June	July	August	September	October
Jowar	273.0	277.9	272.9	276.3	276.3
Bajra	224.4	221.4	225.1	229.8	218.7
Maize	213.4	211.3	215.4	221.2	215.9
Barley	216.6	217.0	215.4	218.3	221.1
Ragi	193.5	197.7	196.7	201.2	205.6
Oilseeds	162.8	165.5	167.8	170.4	171.0

The monthly average wholesale price indices for coarse cereals, except bajra and oilseeds show an increasing trend during the above mentioned months.

(d) The Government has been monitoring the prices of essential commodities closely on a regular basis.

For increasing production of coarse cereals under specific crop based systems, the Central Government have been implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals). Under this scheme assistance is provided for various inputs and training of farmers/extension workers as well as supply of critical inputs like seeds, sprayers and water saving devices like sprinklers and drip systems. To increase production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses, "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is already under implementation. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for Production of breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and Manikits, infrastructure development and integrated Pest Management. Besides, front line demonstrations on improved production technologies in oilseeds and pulses are being conducted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research as a transfer of technology.